

Our Clinic

The Anticoagulation Clinic at Major Hospital is a physician directed, nurse managed service. All registered nurses working in the clinic have received special training in anticoagulation therapy management.

At our clinic, the goal is to provide an effective and safe way of taking Coumadin. We do this through close monitoring, which involves face-to-face contact versus telephone contact, and work to increase involvement in YOUR personal medical care.

To become involved in our clinic program:

1. Talk to your physician
2. If appropriate, physician will send a referral to our clinic
3. A nurse from the clinic will contact you to set-up an appointment

Insurance Information

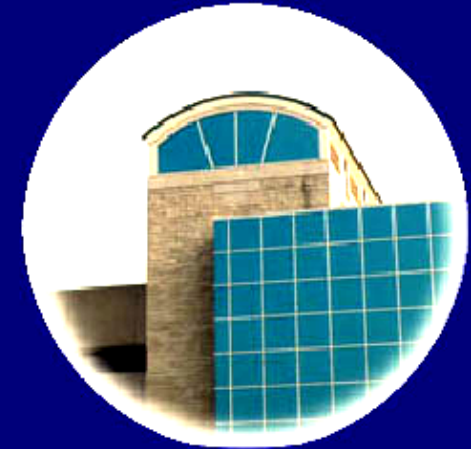
Medicare and Medicaid do cover the cost of this service, however your deductible and coinsurance payments will still apply.

Patients with private insurance such as Key Benefit, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, etc may be charged a co-pay for each visit. If you generally have to pay a co-pay for doctor's office visits, you will probably have to pay one for clinic visits as well. The only way to know for sure is to contact your insurance company and ask.

UnaVie
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Major Hospital
Anticoagulation
Clinic

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Key information

Participation in the Anticoagulation Clinic program is voluntary. Patients are free to choose monitoring with the Clinic or to continue monitoring with their physician.

An advantage to our clinic is that blood is obtained from a simple finger stick, rather than a regular blood draw. Testing is done using a "Point of Care" machine which gives results within seconds. The Clinic nurses then use protocols approved by the physicians to adjust doses when needed.

To be eligible for this service, all patients must be capable of following directions regarding their medicines and diet. An able caregiver or support person who can accompany patients to Clinic appointments and provide assistance at home is also acceptable.

What to expect

Your first visit consists of:

- Signing consent forms
- Reviewing your health history, medications, allergies, and surgery history with a nurse
- Checking your blood pressure and heart rate
- Using a finger stick test to check your blood work (Protime or PT/INR)
- Reviewing your results with a nurse who will instruct you on any dosage changes that need to be made, and schedule your next appointment

First visit lasts about 30 minutes.

Subsequent visits include:

- Checking blood pressure and heart rate
- Checking your Protime with the finger stick test
- Discussing any needed changes with you

These visits last about 15 minutes.

Frequency

All visits to the clinic are scheduled.
The frequency with which you will be seen depends on your Protime (PT/INR) results. Once your level has become stable within the boundaries set by your physician, you will only need to be tested once a month.

Because diet, illness, other medications you take and many other things can affect your body's response to Coumadin, there may be instances when you need to be tested as often as every 1 to 2 weeks for short periods of time until your level stabilizes again. Patients who are just starting to take Coumadin as a new medicine will probably need to be tested at least weekly for a few weeks, before increasing the time between tests.

Each visit includes a short education session covering topics such as basic Coumadin information, disease specific topics, and warning signs of heart attack and stroke.